BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

Contact: B.C.stats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 13-24 June 17th, 2013

- **Manufacturing sales inch down 0.5% in April**
- **Housing starts drop 5.8% in May**
- **Canadian Internet sales reach $122 billion in 2012**

The Economy

- **Sales of goods manufactured in the province dipped (-0.5%, *seasonally adjusted)* in April.** The decline in sales was largely driven by weakness in non-durables manufacturing (-1.6%). Sales by paper producers resumed a downward trend (-4.7%) after a two-month hiatus, while food producers saw the value of shipments drop 2.5% between March and April.

  Producers of durable goods fared better, with shipments inching up 0.3%. Wood producers continued to make gains, marking a fourth straight month of solid growth (+8.4%). Nearly a quarter of total manufacturing sales in April originated in this industry. Among other producers of durable goods, manufacturers of computers and electronic products (+5.4%) and transportation equipment (+2.3%) continued to make gains. However, these were largely offset by weakness in other industries, with producers of primary (-16.5%) and fabricated (-10.5%) metals seeing particularly large declines in sales. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canadian manufacturer's sales were down 2.4% (*seasonally adjusted*) in April.** Sales fell in 13 of 21 industries, accounting for 86% of total Canadian manufacturing. Saskatchewan (+10.8%) and Nova Scotia (+1.5%) were the only provinces to post an increase in manufacturing sales. BC's decline (-0.5%) was modest compared to the rest of the country, where sales fell at rates ranging from -1.3% in both Ontario and Alberta to -10.8% in P.E.I. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Lumber production at B.C. sawmills was 4.0% lower in March than in the same month of 2012.** Production at Coastal mills was off 6.8%, while those in the Interior reduced their output 3.6%.

  Year-to-date, lumber production in the province was virtually unchanged (+0.3%) from the first three months of 2012. Production at Coastal mills dropped 3.4%, but those in the Interior posted a modest increase (+0.8%).

  Canadian lumber production advanced 5.8% in the first quarter, largely because sawmills in Quebec ramped up production significantly (+16.7%). Alberta (+6.7%) was the only other region to post an increase. B.C. accounted for just over half (51%) of Canada's lumber production in the first quarter. Quebec (23%) and Alberta (14%) were the second- and third-largest lumber-producing provinces. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of new motor vehicles driven off car lots in the province fell 6.6% (*seasonally adjusted*) in April, following a surge (+11.3%) in sales in the previous month.** Sales of both cars (-7.1%) and trucks (-6.4%) were lower than in March. *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

Housing

- **Housing starts in British Columbia fell 5.8% (*seasonally adjusted*) in May, following a 4.8% decline in April.** While starts were up 16.3% in rural areas, activity in urban areas slowed (-7.2%). Single-detached starts (all areas) increased (+7.5%) but the number of multi-family dwelling starts in the province was down 12.8%. In Vancouver, the number of housing starts tumbled 18.3%.

  Nationally, housing starts rose 13.8%, boosted by strong growth in Ontario (+43.6%) and Atlan-

Did you know...

45% of Canadian enterprises had a website in 2012

Data Source: Statistics Canada

tic Canada. Alberta (+6.3%) and Saskatchewan (+8.3%) also posted gains. However, starts were down in Manitoba (-25.3%), Quebec (-6.6%), and B.C. (-5.8%). *Data Source: CMHC*

- **The number of multiple listing service (MLS)® sales in the province was down 0.7% (*year-over-year*) in May.** There were 7,664 residential sales in May. Although activity was slightly lower, the average price increased 2.7% (to $534,013). The total value of sales was $4.1 billion. *Data Source: BCREA*

- **The cost of new housing in Victoria was 1.5% lower in April than in the same month of 2012.** Victoria and Vancouver (-0.6%) were the only census metropolitan areas in Canada where new housing prices dropped. Canadian prices rose 2.0%, year-over-year, led by strong gains in Winnipeg (+5.5%) and Calgary (+4.7%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Apprenticeship Training Programs

- **In 2011, there were 426,283 Canadians registered in apprenticeship training programs.** Nearly a quarter (97,605) of them were new registrants. The total number of registrants fell slightly (-1.0%), marking the decline since 2008. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Digital Technology and Internet Use

- **Canadian enterprises sold almost $122 billion of goods and services over the Internet in 2012, accounting for 4% of their total sales.** Manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade together generated 61% of Internet sales. Just over 11% of enterprises sold online in 2012. The information and cultural (35%), educational services (30%) and arts, entertainment and recreation (26%) industries were the most likely to sell online. Eighty-seven percent of Canadian enterprises used the Internet in 2012; among those with at least 10 employees, the rate was 96%.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Radio Broadcasting

- **Private radio broadcasters in British Columbia earned revenues of $214 million in 2012, up slightly (+1.0%) from the previous year.** Almost all (98%) of their revenues came from sales of local (72%) or national and network (26%) air time. Canadian public and private broadcast revenues fell 0.3% in 2012 (to $2.0 billion), but private broadcasters saw revenues inch up (+0.3%) to $1.6 billion.

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 56-208-x

Crime

- **Canadian youth courts (those involving 12-to-17-year olds) completed 48,229 cases in 2011/12.** The most frequent cases were theft (14%), common assault (8%) and break and enter (8%). Probation was the most common youth court sentence (imposed in six out of ten cases). In British Columbia, the number of youth court cases fell (-16.2%) to 2,915 in 2011/12. *Data Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 85-002-x*

Prices

- **B.C. producers of softwood lumber saw prices increase at double-digit rates (+18.4%, year-over-year) in April, continuing an upward trend that began in March of 2012.** Producers in the Interior (+20.5%) and Coastal (+12.4%) regions saw prices rise at double-digit rates. However, prices for B.C. pulpwood chips were down 3.0% from April 2012. Canadian manufacturing prices were unchanged in April, relative to the same month of 2012. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Nation

- **Canadian industries operated at 81.1% of their production capacity in the first quarter.** This was slightly higher than the 80.5% capacity utilization rate recorded at the end of 2012. Capacity utilization rates had declined from 78.4% in early 2008 to a low of 70.7% in the second quarter of 2009. More recently, the increase in utilization rates has slowed, with rates hovering around the 81% mark since mid-2012. Utilization rates are lowest in mining and quarrying (66.0%) and manufacturing (79.7%). They are higher in forestry and logging (83.6%), oil and gas extraction (87.4%), and electric power utilities (90.3%). The capacity utilization rate measures the ratio of an industry's actual output to its estimated potential output.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/2013	% change on one year ago
BC	4,639.9	0.8
Canada	35,056.1	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Mar 2013	3,360	1.2
Merchandise Exports - Mar 2013	3,001	12.9
Retail Sales - Mar 2013	5,156	0.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Apr 2013)	one year ago	% change
BC	-0.8	0.6
Vancouver	-0.8	0.8
Victoria	-1.3	0.4
Canada	0.4	1.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Apr 2013	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	9.5	
Labour Force - BC	2,471.0	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,312.1	0.4
Unemployed - BC	158.8	-8.3
		Mar 2013
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.4	7.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jun 12/2013	Jun 13/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.14	3.20
- 5 year	5.14	5.24
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jun 12/2013	Jun 13/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0202	1.0279
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9792	0.9716
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Apr 2013	one year ago
BC	877.05	3.9
Canada	885.20	3.0

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

2011 Census Profiles

We have added files for Health geographies, School Districts, College Regions and Ministry of Children and Family Development Regions. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Provincial Electoral District Profiles 2011

Posted to our Open Data page is a 2011 Census Profile for the Provincial Electoral Districts. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Population Estimates by Age and Sex 2012

Updated population estimates by age and sex for B.C. sub-provincial regions are now available. . . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

B.C. Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

The 2012 edition of the profile of British Columbia's fisheries and aquaculture sector is now available. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-01-29/British_Columbia_s_Fisheries_and_Aquaculture_Sector.aspx

Municipal Population Estimates 2012

Population estimates for B.C. municipalities and regional districts as of July 1, 2012 are now available. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

Released last week by BC Stats

- No releases

To Release this week

- Consumer Price Index (CPI)

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